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Viewing cable 05NEWDELHI4761, SOCIOECONOMIC FUTURE OF INDIAN DALITS REMAINS BLEAK

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

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Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#05NEWDELHI4761**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
05NEWDELHI4761	2005-06-22 13:44	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy New Delhi

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/the-india-cables/article1568814.ece>

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

221344Z Jun 05

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 05 NEW DELHI 004761

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/06/2015

TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PGOV](#) [ECON](#) [ELAB](#) [IN](#)

SUBJECT: SOCIOECONOMIC FUTURE OF INDIAN DALITS REMAINS BLEAK

Classified By: DCM Bob Blake for Reasons 1.4 (B, D)

[1](#). (C) Summary: Embassy interlocutors report that after one year of UPA rule, limited government efforts to improve dalit (formerly called "Discrimination Remains Despite Legal Protection

[1](#)2. (U) Dalits, who make up approximately 16% of India's population, roughly 166 million people, occupy the lowest position in the social stru

[1](#)3. (C) Despite the passage of the Anti-Untouchability Act of 1955 and the Prevention of Atrocities Act of 1989, crimes against dalits are sti

[1](#)4. (C) Ram Nath Kovind, himself a dalit and a BJP MP from Uttar Pradesh, expressed a more positive view to Poloff recently, stating that "of The Reservation System

[1](#)5. (U) The GOI uses a system of "reservations," similar to affirmative action programs in the US, in an attempt to ameliorate the social ar

[1](#)6. (C) Nair argued that the reservation system has only been partially successful in empowering dalits, because they often discriminate again

[1](#)7. (C) Professor Thorat judged the reservation system as "only a partial success" and maintained that its effectiveness will decline in the

[1](#)8. (C) Centuries of discrimination have confined most dalits to the lowest paying jobs. Thorat claimed that 70% of all dalits live in rural Poor Prospects for Improvement

[1](#)9. (C) Thorat and Justice Party President and Chairman of the All-India Confederation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Organizations

[1](#)10. (C) Sangh Priya Guatam, a dalit BJP MP from Uttar Pradesh, India's largest state and one of its poorest, agreed that dalits will be left GOI-CII Agreement on Reservations

[1](#)11. (C) Thorat asserted that a June 2 agreement between the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Ministry of Social Justice and Em

[1](#)12. (C) Dalits view the GOI-CII agreement as yet another mechanism to maintain the status quo, according to Raj. He argued that with the BJI Solutions?

[1](#)13. (C) Education programs for Indian youth to increase egalitarian attitudes are the only way to truly break caste discrimination, according

[1](#)14. (C) Reservations in public education institutions have not translated into enhanced socioeconomic status for dalits, according to Thorat.

[1](#)15. (C) Raj also questioned whether the GOI was committed to taking effective action to end discrimination against dalits, claiming that most Dalit Rights Movements

[1](#)16. (U) Dalits' perception of their plight varies from region to region, according to Thorat. He noted that the civil rights agitation for c

[1](#)17. (U) This finds expression in the bitter caste-based politics of the North India "Hindi Belt" which has spawned such parties as the dali

[1](#)18. (U) With dalits estimated to constitute from 16% to 27% of the Indian population, the lack of progress for dalits has both political and

[1](#)19. (U) Thorat argued that political organizations have also proven ineffective. After 1947, most dalits pledged allegiance to Congress, but

[1](#)20. (C) Prominent human rights expert Nair stated that dalits need to take their case to the courts if they want to achieve emancipation. He Success Stories

[1](#)21. (U) Despite widespread discrimination, a number of dalits have become successful. The highest profile case is that of K.R. Narayanan, wh Comment

[1](#)22. (C) While the UPA has focused on bettering the lot of the dalit community, it is dominated by upper caste Hindus, very few of whom are ge MULFORD